

## Superfund Division

### TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

#### VARIOUS REMOVAL/REMEDIAL ISSUES

**Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Site:** In October 2018, Atlantic Richfield (AR) installed a meteorological station along with air particulate samplers at the site to support Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) site characterization. Final siting locations were coordinated with the Pueblo of Laguna, Environmental & Natural Resources Department (ENRD) and the activities were successfully completed. The RI/FS Workplan development is underway by AR and coordination among EPA, POL/ENRD and AR will continue through the Fall on draft outlines and deliverables. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

**Quapaw Nation, Tar Creek:** The EPA continues to work closely with the Quapaw Nation Environmental Office (QNEO) and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) in implementing the remedial actions for the Tar Creek Superfund Site (Site) for Operable Units 2 (OU 2, Residential Areas) and 4 (Chat Piles and Other Mining Wastes). Since the awarding of a Remedial Action Cooperative Agreement (CA) in FY2012 for the Catholic 40, the first-ever CA in the nation where a Tribe performed a Superfund remedial action on property that they own, the EPA has continued to award the QNEO CAs for remedial actions at Beaver Creek North (CP060), Distal 7 North (Drainage Feature), Distal 10/12, Distal 13, CB199, and Marketable Chat. CAs with the QNEO for OU 4 remedial actions for Distal 10b and the Bird Dog chat base, including other areas of the Site, are being discussed.

The EPA, QNEO, and the ODEQ are investigating options for reducing the amount of soils that are excavated from the Site and disposed at the central repository. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

**Tar Creek OU5 (Surface Water and Sediments):** EPA is working with tribes, states, and other federal agencies to plan, report and review the risk assessment and investigation reports. Through a series of submitted comments and conference call discussions, human health risk assessment inputs needed to finalize the Risk Assessment Guidance Part D tables continue to be evaluated. After reconciling all the comments and inputs received, the updated tables for inclusion in the OU5 human health risk assessment will be provided for review. Once finalized, these tables, combined with the data from the 2017 field event, will be used to complete a draft human health risk assessment for OU5 that will be submitted to the stakeholder group for review and comment. In addition, after compilation of investigation data, the draft OU5 Characterization report will be shared for review and comment. Both documents are tentatively scheduled for release in mid-2019. Concurrent with this work, a sediment trap pilot study to evaluate proof of concept and gather additional construction, cost, and maintenance information will be implemented. The work plan was provided on September 13, 2018, with a tentative construction target within the next 3-4 months. Updates on site progress and next steps were provided during the Tar Creek Conference held on September 25-26 and the Tristate Trustee Meeting held on

October 3. The EPA will continue to coordinate with the tribes interested in the Tar Creek Site through periodic meetings, conference calls, and document sharing. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

**Wilcox Oil Company:** On April 16, 2018, EPA and ODEQ met with the Sac and Fox Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and Cherokee Nation to discuss the draft Source Control Proposed Plan. During the meeting the proposed source control action was described while questions related to process and future activities were answered. The draft Source Control Proposed Plan was updated and revised based on input received and provided to the tribes for review. The Source Control Proposed Plan was released for public review on June 28, 2018, with a comment period end date of July 31, 2018, and a public meeting date of July 10, 2018. The final Source Control Record of Decision was signed on September 5, 2018, and final electronic copies were provided to each of the tribes on September 11, 2018. The remedial design is underway and when a draft is complete it will be shared for review and comment. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

**Oklahoma Refining Company:** In July 2018, the EPA and ODEQ met with the new Mayor of Cyril to discuss on-going activities and plans concerning remedial activities at the Oklahoma Refining Company Superfund Site located in Cyril, Oklahoma. EPA and ODEQ also met with Caddo County representatives and the City of Cyril to discuss potential reuse ideas for the site that could be incorporated into the on-going Remedial Design. Also, EPA initiated a comprehensive property ownership evaluation to facilitate obtaining access agreements for future OU2 remedial activities. EPA and ODEQ are scheduled to complete the Remedial Design for OU2, which encompasses the remedial actions described in the 2013 OU2 Record of Decision. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

**New Mexico Abandoned Uranium Mines – Five Year Plan:** EPA conducted a series of outreach meetings on the Grants Mining District Five-Year Plan during the week of October 15. Staff from EPA met with the Pueblo of Laguna on October 16 and Pueblo of Acoma on October 17. Additional community meetings were held on October 16 at the “Crossroads” area of state roads 509/605 and October 18 in Grants, New Mexico. In addition to an update of activities under the Five-Year Plan, EPA also presented information on the San Mateo Creek Basin Phase 2 Ground Water Investigation Report.

The Ambrosia Lake non-time critical removal assessments continue. Field work in the western and eastern areas of Ambrosia Lake has been completed and the central area should be completed in early 2019. The data is being utilized to prepare Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Reports for these areas. This work is being funded by proceeds from the Tronox Settlement.

Coordination meetings are held on a regular basis with Region 6, Region 9, Navajo Nation, New Mexico Environmental Department, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department to discuss priorities for current and future removal work in the legacy uranium mines under the Tronox settlement. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2018 in New Mexico. *Ben Banipal, 214-665-7324, John Meyer 214-665-6742, Ronnie Crossland, 214-665-2721*

**San Mateo Creek Basin National Priorities List Proposal – Tribal Consultation:** EPA is currently evaluating the San Mateo Creek Basin Uranium Legacy Site for potential National Priorities List proposal. Follow-up meetings were held on October 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> to update the Pueblo of Acoma and the Pueblo of Laguna of on-going activities and NPL status. A follow-up will be provided to the Navajo Nation during the November 14-15 Tronox Stakeholders Meeting. EPA is currently negotiating with responsible parties to address site contamination as they continue to evaluate San Mateo Creek Basin Uranium Legacy site for the potential inclusion to the National Priorities List. *Ben Banipal, 214-665-7324*

## **BROWNFIELDS**

### **128a Tribal Response Program Updates:**

- Region 6 has awarded FY18 Response Program funding to six 128a Tribal Response Programs, including the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council, Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation and the Muscogee-Creek Nation. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*
- Region 6, in partnership with Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields (Tribal TAB) has launched the R6 Tribal Response Program Workgroup (aka TRP Workgroup). The purpose of the workgroup is to explore tribal-specific topics to help enhance Region 6 128a Tribal Response Programs. The first meeting, held April 12, focused on demonstrating the value of Tribal Response Programs beyond the statutory-required four elements. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*
- The Oklahoma Brownfields Conference was held in Oklahoma City from September 26 - 28, 2018 at the Skirvin Hotel. Region 6 also held a State and Tribal meeting jointly with Region 4 to discuss 128(a) programs and upcoming changes. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*
- The FY19 128(a) Funding Guidance was announced on October 4, 2018, with a deadline for submission of proposals of December 14, 2018. The Guidance can be reached at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state-and-tribal-response-program-grant-funding-guidance-resources> EPA HQ will also be hosting two webinars to learn about the new Small Technical Assistance Grant Program on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

## **TARGETED BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma:** The Phase II ESA field work to collect paint chip samples from exterior of Kickapoo Gymnasium is scheduled for November 2018. This Phase II ESA will assist with selection of cleanup contractor under the Kickapoo Gymnasium Brownfields Cleanup grant. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

**Santa Clara Pueblo:** Region 6 received updated property access agreement from Santa Clara Pueblo to conduct a Phase II ESA on Bridge Radiator Shop in June 2018. The USACE contract office did not accept new work assignments in June 2018, so Phase II ESA work assignment was submitted to USACE contracts in October 2018. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

**Cochiti Pueblo:** The Phase III ESA – Brownfields Cleanup/Stabilization Plan for the closed Cochiti Gravel Mine, Kick-off Meeting was held on August 31, 2018, at Cochiti Pueblo office. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

**Acoma Pueblo:** The Phase II ESA site visit to complete hazardous substances survey of the closed U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration building in Acoma Village was conducted the week of October 22, 2018. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

In January 2018, the University of New Mexico Architecture School met with Acoma Pueblo to discuss reuse planning assistance for the Acoma School and a closed gas station/convenience store. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

**Laguna Pueblo:** NMED completed limited Phase II ESA field work to sample monitoring wells, an abandoned drinking water well and indoor air in summer of 2018. Final report for limited Phase II ESA report will be completed by November 2018. The Region 6 offer to undertake follow-up Phase II ESA is on hold pending feedback from Laguna Pueblo. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

### **SUPERFUND TRIBAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

Contracts and Budget Section, in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter FY18, awarded the Quapaw Nation funding to continue remedial activities at the Tar Creek OU-4 Site:

Awarded Tar Creek Elm Creek Distal 10(b) \$1,045,485

Awarded Tar Creek Chat Base 199 \$2,309,169

Awarded Tar Creek Marketable Chat \$3,000,000

Awarded Quapaw Nation Management Assistance \$206,924

For a total of \$6,561,578 (4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018)

**Santa Clara Pueblo, North Railroad Avenue Plume:** The Santa Clara Pueblo received an incremental award of \$1,500 as part of their Cooperative Agreement in September 2018, as it ensures our Tribal partner continues its meaningful involvement and management assistance activities at the North Railroad Avenue Plume Superfund Site. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

**Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC):** The Cooperative Agreement (CA) for ITEC received approval for a No-Cost Time Extension. The CA's budget and project is extended to September 30, 2019. This ensures that ITEC continues its meaningful involvement and management assistance activities at Superfund sites in Oklahoma and New Mexico. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

**Navajo Nation:** The Cooperative Agreement (CA) for the Navajo Nation received approval for a No-Cost Time Extension. The CA's budget and project is extended to September 30, 2019. This ensures that the Navajo Nation continues its meaningful involvement and management assistance activities at the Prewitt and United Nuclear Superfund sites. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

**Pueblo of Laguna:** The Cooperative Agreement (CA) for the Pueblo of Laguna received approval for a No-Cost Time Extension. The CA's budget and project is extended to September 30, 2019. This ensures that the Pueblo of Laguna continues its meaningful involvement and management assistance activities at the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine site. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

### **Trainings**

**Risk Communications Training** – EPA provided Risk Communications Training hosted by ITEC on October 11, in Tulsa Oklahoma.